Food Security

1835. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new proposals that include reduction in wheat allocation to the States, allocation of coarse grains instead of wheat, reduction in quotas for both APL and BPL by 5 kg. etc., constitute on the right to food;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if countries were to be graded in terms of provision of food security to their citizens, India would rank alongwith Ethiopia at the lower end; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide food security to everyone in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is no serious threat to food security in the country. As per information furnished by FAO, FAO publishes annually a document entitled the State of Food and Insecurity (SOFI) that includes a measure to compare food insecurity across almost all the countries of the world. This indicator refers to the proportion of the population that is malnourished and is estimated for a rolling three year average. The latest SOFI is for 2005 and the indicator refers to the period 2000-2002. The proportion of undernourished for India is given at 21 percent whereas Ethiopia had a figure of 46 percent.

Foodgrains to Tsunami hit States

1836. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FCI has increased the foodgrains supply to tsunami hit States and flood affected States during the last two years;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?